Introduction: Aspects of regional varieties of Malay

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The papers contained in this volume come from works presented at the 2nd Workshop on Malayic Varieties, held on Oct. 13 – 14, 2018, and the 3rd Workshop on Malayic Varieties, held on Nov. 30 – Dec. 1, 2019. Both workshops were held at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS). The workshops were two of a series of three that explored the contemporary status of varieties of Malay, and the larger grouping of Malayic languages, throughout Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Singapore – the Malay speaking world.

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This volume is not a proceedings per se, as some of the works presented at the workshops are not included. Further, several of the papers included here differ significantly from those presented at the workshops. In the best way, they represent positive developments from the authors' engagements with other scholars at the conference that directed their research in different ways.

There are a number of ways to classify Malay varieties, none of which has universal acceptance among scholars. Most seem to recognize at least three key distinctions. There are national languages, such as Indonesian and Malaysian, that are the product of language planning boards and have been adopted as official languages for use in government, law, education, etc. (cf. Paauw 2008, Adelaar 2018, inter alia). Further, there are native ('inherited' in the classification of Paauw (2008), 'vernacular' for Adelaar (2018)) varieties. These refer mostly to the Malay varieties of Sumatra, Borneo, and the Malay peninsula that spread as part of earlier migrations of Austronesians into the western islands of the Sunda archipelago and the southeast Asian mainland. In this category we can cite Riau Malay, Medan Malay, Trengganu Malay, and Brunei Malay, among many others. To this group might be added the larger Malayic languages such as Minagkabau, Selako, and Iban, again among many others. The final group is distinguished as having arisen as the result of contact, often through trading networks. These varieties are sometimes referred to trade Malays, bazaar Malays, contact varieties (Paauw 2008),

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or regional lingua francas (Adelaar 2018). Ambon Malay, Manado Malay, Papauan Malay, Sri Lankan, and Cocos Malay, inter alia, fall within this category.

In the traditional sense, many of these are 'stable' varieties. A newer, more dynamic category might be referred to as regional or colloquial Indonesian or Malaysian. They are not varieties in the same sense as the previous categories. Rather, they emerge as the result of multilingual practices as speakers of regional languages incorporate the national languages of Indonesian and Malaysian into their linguistic repertoires. As suggested by Ewing (this volume), the investigation of these 'regionally inflected' forms of Indonesian and Malaysian may in fact be best viewed when focusing on the practices of individual speakers rather than as stable varieties.

The series of workshops on Malayic varieties organized at TUFS casts a broad net over all these types of Malay and Malayic, with a special focus on exploring commonalities among the emerging varieties and practices represented by this last group.

In 'Building a semi-parallel corpus of Malay varieties: some preliminary findings', Shiohara & Yanti present a methodological paper describing the creation of a semi-parallel corpus of Malay varieties using the 'Jackal and Crow picture task'. One of the challenges in comparative work on Malay varieties is precisely the lack of comparable data. Given that different varieties often find use in different contexts or fall on different points along a register spectrum, direct comparison can be difficult. Use of prompts and tasks such as those described here, go some way in overcoming those challenges. Shiohara & Yanti use the comparative data to show that voice selection varies significantly across varieties in similar narrative contexts. They further highlight unique features of Makassar Malay.

Turning from methodological issues, Atsuko Utsumi surveys 'Address terms in the Malay world', proposing a framework for better understanding both the source and the use of address terms across a number of Malay varieties. As with many languages in southeast Asia, Malay varieties make both referential and anaphoric use of address terms. Atsuko proposes that there are essentially three domains: formal, intermediate, and informal, defined in terms of +/- respect, +/- public, and +/- intimate, that account for how speakers deploy address terms.

Java is home to nearly half the population of Indonesia, but only four or so of its nearly 700 languages. These four languages – Javanese, Madurese, Sundanese, and Jakarta Indonesian – are all spoken by millions of native speakers. The next two papers explore how speakers of two of these languages, Ewing on Sundanese and Conners & Brugman on Javanese, carry over features of their local languages when speaking a regionally inflected form of Indonesian. Ewing shows how dynamic the use of features attributed to Sundanese is in the speech of younger speakers (age 18-25) from Bandung, when speaking their regional Indonesian. There are varying patterns, frequencies, and content depending on a range of factors. Ewing identifies phonological features, open class lexical items, pragmatic particles, pronouns and kinship terms, other function words, and grammatical features that define these different patterns. Conners & Brugman similarly identify dynamic patterns associated with individual speakers and speech contexts. They report on two groups of East Javanese speakers, and identify phonological, lexical, morphological, and morphosyntactic features that are characteristic of this speech.

Soriente provides a different perspective from the examples discussed in Ewing and Conners & Brugman, where Indonesian came into contact with a single language with large numbers of native speakers. She documents the Indonesian(s) spoken on and near the island of Tarakan, in North Kalimantan. Here, a regional Indonesian is emerging as a vehicle for interethnic communication among a range of linguistic and ethnic groups now resident in the area. Speakers of native regional Malay varieties, as well as immigrant communities from South Kalimantan (Banjar), South Sulawesi (Bugis, Makassar, and Toraja), as well as from Java, all contribute various elements to this emerging variety.

The next two papers focus on specific features on two native Malay varieties of Borneo. Inagaki explores word-level stress in Pontianak Malay. Stress patterns vary significantly across Malay varieties. Some are argued to have no word-level stress, whereas others, particularly eastern varieties, have developed phonemic stress. Inagaki argues that Pontianak Malay interestingly has fixed word final stress, but that this serves only in a delimitative function.

Nomoto explores voice constructions in Sarawak Malay. Using corpus data supplemented with elicited examples, he demonstrates that Sarawak Malay has a repertoire of passive subtypes similar to Standard Malaysian's. He identifies two significant distinctions, however. First, in Sarawak Malay the DP-type passive (also known as the passive semu or object-fronting passive) is more frequent than the *di-* marked passive. Second, the order of elements in the bare passive – distinct from both the DP-type passive and *di-* marked passive – is distinctive, with the agent following the verb. He attributes both of these as retentions from older Malay varieties.

Moving to Sulawesi, Brickell explores the interaction of the now-widespread Manado Malay – a contact or lingua franca, or, in Brickell's terms, Pidgin Derived Malay – with two local languages in North Sulawesi, Tondano and Tonsawang. He identifies a number of shared features and looks at the direction of borrowing in each case. He further places these outcomes within the larger context of theories of contact-induced language change.

Taken together, the eight papers here present a fascinating snapshot of the richness of Malay varieties. They further demonstrate the importance of this region for the study of language spread and contact. That such variying contact situations as those presented here have notably similar outcomes, is not predicted by current theories of language contact. These studies therefore make a significant contribution to the study of Malay varieties and to linguistic theory in general.

References

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